

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

SECRET STATE 038057

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, UR, XE

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON SYTENKO

REF: MOSCOW 2246

1. WE ANTICIPATE THAT SYTENKO WILL REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION ON SOVIET REQUEST FOR BILATERALS IN PREPARATION FOR GENEVA. YOU MAY INDICATE THAT US POSITION, AS EXPRESSED IN JANUARY MOSCOW TALKS, REMAINS THE SAME. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT SOVIET-US BILATERAL TALKS WOULD SERVE USEFUL PURPOSE AT APPROPRIATE TIME. WE WILL REMAIN IN TOUCH WITH SOVIETS ON THIS MATTER.

2. IF SYTENKO RAISES US VETO AT SECURITY COUNCIL, YOU MAY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT CRUCIAL QUESTION IN US VIEW WAS WHAT EFFECT PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE ON NEGOTIATING PROCESS. IT WOULD BE MOST UNWISE IN OUR VIEW TO ALTER GENEVA CONFERENCE FRAMEWORK AND SC RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 IN WAYS IN WHICH ORIGINAL PARTIES COULD NOT ACCEPT. WITH

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REGARD TO PALESTINIAN ISSUE, WE BELIEVE THAT SC RESOLUTION

PREJUDGED QUESTION THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED BY GENEVA
PARTIES THEMSELVES.

3. IN VIEW OF DECLARED SOVIET INTEREST IN MOVING GENEVA
PROCESS FORWARD, STATED MOST RECENTLY IN FEBRUARY 14 GROMYKO

TO WALDHEIM LETTER, YOU MAY WISH TO POINT OUT THAT US HAS
NO INTENTION OF "HAMPERING CONVOCATION OF GENEVA" AS
IMPLIED IN GROMYKO LETTER. US CONTINUES CONSULTATIONS
WITH PARTIES AND, IN RECENT TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER
RABIN, POINT WAS MADE THAT US COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING
MOMENTUM TOWARD MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT IN 1976. FURTHER
US CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER MIDDLE EAST PARTIES ARE
ANTICIPATED IN THE COMING MONTH. THE LEVEL OF THESE
CONSULTATIONS IS BEING WORKED OUT. FYI THOUGH POSSIBILITY
OF MIDDLE EAST TRIPS BY SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT HAS BEEN
REPORTED IN PRESS, NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AND YOU
SHOULD NOT SPECULATE ON THIS SUBJECT WITH SOVIETS. END
FYI.

4. YOU MAY WISH TO STATE THAT US WOULD WELCOME SOVIET
ENCOURAGEMENT OF MOVEMENT TOWARD SETTLEMENT. IN THIS
CONNECTION, YOU MAY NOTE THAT WHILE SOME HINTS OF CHANGE
ARE EVIDENT, THE PALESTINIANS HAVE NOT ACCEPTED
RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. INGERSOLL

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